



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
FOR THE NORFOLK DISTRICT

WILLIAM R. KEATING
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

45 SHAWMUT ROAD
CANTON, MA 02021
(781) 830-4800
FAX (781) 830-4801

Press Release

Former Weymouth man indicted for rape In church rectory after 15 years

Contact: David Traub, District Attorney Keating's Office, 781-830-4800 x 217

A former Weymouth man was indicted today (September 21, 2010) for an October 2, 1995 rape in the rectory of a Weymouth Church thanks largely to the DNA evidence collected after the attack, District Attorney William R. Keating announced.

"This is exactly what the CODIS DNA database is in place to do," District Attorney Keating said after the indictment was filed at Norfolk Superior Court. "This was a tremendously violent and disturbing attack."

"That evidence was collected as part of a rape kit and preserved. Now the evidence from the time of that crime has been linked to this defendant's DNA," Keating said.

William Edward Burton III, DOB 2-17-69, is currently serving a prison term in Maryland on similar charges. Because the Maryland charges have been adjudicated, he is eligible for transport back to Massachusetts for trial on the indictments here.

The attack in Weymouth was in the rectory of St. Albert the Great Church, where the victim was working at the time.

Keating said that although the statute of limitations would have expired on the Weymouth attack on October 2, 2010 if Burton had never left Massachusetts, because he moved to Maryland and is now incarcerated there, that time pressure was not present. "We became aware of the potential match in the spring and have been waiting for the additional forensic testing needed to proceed." Weymouth Police and State Police attached to the Norfolk District Attorney's Office have been pursuing the investigation since that time.

Burton will be represented by defense attorney Larry Tipton. District Attorney Keating said that because Burton is incarcerated out of state, his arraignment in Massachusetts will likely be delayed by some time. "The indictment is the first step in this process. Arrangements will need to be made to have him brought for arraignment and trial," District Attorney Keating said.

Burton was indicted on two counts of aggravated rape, one count of kidnapping and one count of attempted murder by strangulation and faced life in prison on those counts in Massachusetts.

As with all criminal defendants, Mr. Burton enjoys the Constitutional presumption of his innocence.